

Message Text

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43

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02

SS-20 NSC-10 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 FDRE-00

DRC-01 EA-11 /196 W

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R 021445Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7688

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

XAMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1579

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR Y IN

SUBJ: WEEKLY FOODGRAIN SITUATION

REF: NEW DELHI 12425

BEGIN SUMMARY - FOODGRAIN SITUATION CONTINUES TO SHOW SOME
IMPROVEMENT. OVERALL PROSPECTS FOR 1973-74 FOODGRAIN HARVEST
CONTINUES GOOD WITH EMBASSY CURRENTLY ESTIMATING RECORD CROP OF
110 MILLION METRIC TONS. INDIA, STILL IN THE MARKET TO PURCHASE
ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF GRAIN DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IF
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SATISFACTORY SUPPLY-PRICE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE REACHED. END

SUMMARY.

1. FOODGRAIN SITUATION IN INDIA CONTINUED TO IMPROVE DURING THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 2. MARKET PRICES OF RICE, COARSE GRAINS AND WHEAT HAVE DECLINED IN MANY PARTS OF INDIA. DESPITE THIS, GOI FOR NOVEMBER IS FURTHER REDUCING FOODGRAIN ALLOCATIONS TO STATES SINCE GOVERNMENT STOCKS CONTINUE AT A VERY LOW LEVEL. FOR EXAMPLE, NOVEMBER ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS TO MAHARASHTRA STATE HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 125,000 TONS COMPARED TO THE OCTOBER ALLOCATION OF 180,000 TONS.

2. GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF RICE FROM OCTOBER 1 OF THIS YEAR TOTALS 200,000 TONS AS COMPARED TO ONLY 8,000 TONS PROCURED DURING A SIMILAR PERIOD OF TIME LAST YEAR.

3. OVERALL PROSPECTS FOR 1973-74 FOODGRAIN HARVEST CONTINUE GOOD. GOI OFFICIALS ARE STILL TAKING OF A TOTAL FOODGRAIN HARVEST OF ABOUT 115 MILLION TONS. EMBOFFS CONSIDER THIS ESTIMATE TO BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC AND THAT A MORE REALISTIC ESTIMATE OF THE 1973-74 FOODGRAIN HARVEST, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WOULD BE ABOUT 110 MILLION TONS. FERTILIZER SHORTAGE, PARTICULARLY FOR SPRING CROPS, IS A MAJOR LIMITATION TO ACHIEVING THE 115 MILLION TON TARGET.

4. GOI OFFICIALS ARE STILL IN THE MARKET TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF GRAIN DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IF SUITABLE SUPPLY-PRICE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. AUSTRALIA HAS INDICATED TO GOI OFFICIALS THAT IT IS CURRENTLY PREPARED TO SELL INDIA 200-300,000 TONS OF WHEAT FROM ITS CURRENT HARVEST.

5. EMBASSY EXPECTS SLIGHT BUT CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD-GRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION IN INDIA IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. UNLESS WASHINGTON AGENCIES ADVISE TO THE CONTRARY, WE WILL DISCONTINUE WEEKLY REPORTS ON FOODGRAIN SITUATION. INSTEAD, WE WILL SUBMIT REPORTS AS DEVELOPMENTS JUSTIFY.
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